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NORTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

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No. 12

Raleigh, N. C.

February 15, 1948

## FEBRUARY 1, 1948 GENERAL FARM REPORT

### FARM WAGE RATES CONTINUE HIGH

North Carolina farmers paid an average of \$81.00 per month for hired labor without board on January 1, 1948. This is almost \$5.00 more than they paid a year earlier and \$16.00 more than they paid on the same date 2 years ago. However, where board was furnished Tar Heel farmers paid around \$58.00 per month on January 1, this year.

These are by far the highest wage rates ever paid by farmers in this state. Farm wages have increased steadily since prior to World War II and so far there is little evidence of a decline yet. Wages of day labor which also continues to rise, averaged \$4.30 per day without board and \$3.65 per day with board on January 1, 1948. Meanwhile, day labor in the State of Washington averaged \$9.30 per day without board which is the highest of any state in the nation. South Carolina was the lowest, with an average of \$2.90 per day being paid to hired labor without board.

### HONEY PRODUCTION BREAKS RECORD

North Carolina's honey bees did a good job in 1947 by producing more honey than in any recent year. An estimated crop of 6,228,000 pounds of honey was taken from hives in 1947. This was almost double the 1946 crop and three times more than in 1945. The number of colonies at work during the year was placed at 173,000 or 2 percent less than in 1946. Some colonies were lost due to insufficient stores and a lack of adequate sugar for feeding. Yield per colony during 1947 was estimated at 36 pounds compared with 20 pounds in 1946 and a 5 year (1942-46) average of 20 pounds. The large take in 1947 placed North Carolina 13th in the Nation in honey production and 2nd in the South Atlantic group of states. In this group of states Florida ranked first with a production of 8,190,000 pounds.

The estimated 125,000 pounds of beeswax obtained during the year was more than twice the amount in 1946.

The 1947 season was good for honey flow. Bees were not hampered by excessive rains except in scattered localities and nectar plants were adequate in most areas.

The value of honey and beeswax produced in the Tar Heel state during the past year amounted to about \$2,421,000 compared with only \$1,253,000 in 1946. The prices received by producers for all methods of sale average 38 cents per pound. This is the second highest price received by producers in any state. Maine and Rhode Island producers received 39 cents for their honey while those in New Jersey equaled the North Carolina price.

### GENERAL SITUATION

As of mid-February the general farm situation in North Carolina is quite variable. The frequent rains since mid-September prevented the planting of much of the intended acreage of small grains. The acreage planted however, is generally in good shape.

While December showed light total rainfall, the opportunities for field work were limited and especially so in the clay soil counties. Wet weather continued into February, but tobacco work was active with plant beds. January temperature was one of the coldest of record, with heavy sleet, snow and rain until mid-February. The snow blanket was beneficial, lasting through several weeks. Farmers are anxious to get into their fields at plowing for late winter and early spring plantings. However mid-February soils were still too wet for any field work.

The somewhat steady cold weather has prevented any opportunity for premature swelling of fruit and other tree buds. Pastures are offering very little to no grazing besides being wet.

Considerable thought is being given by farmers and program planning officials to the so obvious extra crop land made available by growers being unable to seed all of their fall intended small grains. Reduced tobacco allotments add to the potential idle acres. As was shown graphically in the January Farm Report, the permitted 1948 tobacco acreage will still be greater than grown in the four year period 1940-43 or that also grown prior to 1936. At any rate growers will have the opportunity to give this crop better attention looking to improved quality, which will increasingly be demanded. More feed crops are needed anyway and these idle acres offer farmers an excellent chance to avoid high feed prices during 1948.

### NEEDED AS PART OF THE FARM PROGRAM





## POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

## DECEMBER HATCHINGS DOWN SHARPLY

The output of chicks during December by commercial hatcheries in North Carolina was 29 percent below the December output in 1946 and 49 percent below the average for the month. The December hatch totaled 888,000 chicks, compared with 1,256,000 chicks during the same month a year earlier, and the 1941-45 average of 1,739,000.

Production of baby chicks during December was the smallest for this month in the past 9 years. A slightly smaller January hatch than a year ago appears in prospect. Eggs in incubators on January 1 were somewhat smaller than on the same date a year ago. The egg feed ratio is not as favorable for egg production as last year. On the other hand, the rise in price of broilers in recent weeks has created a fairly strong demand for chicks for broiler production.

## BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS DOWN

During the week ending January 31, hatcheries and dealers placed 149,000 broiler chicks with producers in the Chatham commercial Area. This number compares with 160,000 broiler chicks placed in the area during the previous week and marks the second consecutive week that total placements have declined. Placements during the week were 11,000 less than during the previous week, a decrease of approximately 7 percent. North Carolina hatcheries placing chicks in the Area reported 378,000 eggs set and 241,000 chicks hatched during the week.

WEEKLY OPERATIONS-CHATHAM COMMERCIAL BROILER AREA

| WEEK ENDING           | EGGS SET* | CHICKS HATCHED* | BROILER CHICKS<br>PLACED ON FARMS |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| - T H O U S A N D S - |           |                 |                                   |
| JANUARY 3             | 254       | 76              | 77                                |
| JANUARY 10            | 314       | 94              | 121                               |
| JANUARY 17            | 358       | 151             | 168                               |
| JANUARY 24            | 386       | 207             | 160                               |
| JANUARY 31            | 378       | 241             | 149                               |

\* For North Carolina hatcheries placing chicks directly with producers.

## JANUARY EGG PRODUCTION LESS THAN A YEAR AGO.

Production of eggs on North Carolina farms during January was up seasonally, but still 14 million eggs below January production a year earlier. Weather conditions during January this year were much less favorable for egg production than during the same period last year. The month's rate of lay per 100 layers (hens and pullets of laying age) in all flocks averaged 713 eggs during the month, compared with 812 eggs a year ago. The rate of lay for farm flocks was off more than for commercial flocks.

January production totaled 54 million eggs, compared with 47 million during December and 68 million a year ago.

## OUTLOOK FOR 1948

Average egg prices in 1948 are likely to be near support levels (90 percent of parity). Egg production during the first half of 1948 probably will equal that of 1947, since the number of layers on farms January 1, 1948 was nearly the same as on January 1, 1947. Per capita domestic disappearance in 1948 will continue very high, but supplies in early 1948 will exceed domestic demand. The egg-feed price ratio is likely to continue low for several months or at least until 1948 feed crop prospects become known.

Cold storage stock of chicken meat totaled 219 million pounds on December 1, 1947, a record for that date. This was 22 percent greater than on December 1, 1946, and more than double December stocks in any prewar year, except 1936. Commercial broiler output will be less the next few months than a year earlier.

## OFF-FARM LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER DECLINES

Slaughter of both hogs and cattle at non-federally inspected plants in North Carolina declined during the first 9 months of 1947 compared with the comparable period for 1946. Slaughter of calves, however, was up slightly from 1946.

Hog slaughter during the first 9 months of 1947 totaled 242,000 head or 30 percent below the 344,000 head slaughtered January through September 1946. Pork production (excluding lard) totaled 53,871,000 pounds at these plants during the 9 months period.

Slaughter of beef cattle totaled 80,300 head, compared with 94,600 head slaughtered during the first 9 months of 1946. Production of beef at these plants totaled 62,127,000 pounds for the 1947 period.

Calf slaughter amounting to 90,700 head was the only species showing more slaughter than a year earlier. Slaughter of calves during the 1946 period totaled 76,200 head. There was 15,713,000 pounds of veal produced at these plants through September for 1947.

## IRISH POTATO STOCKS DOWN

Current stocks of merchantable Irish potatoes, exclusive of storage potatoes held by the federal government, are the lowest since 1945.

January 1 stocks of Irish potatoes held by growers or dealers in or near the 37 late and intermediate states were estimated at 118,420,000 bushels. This was 12 percent above the 1936-1945 average of 106,155,000 bushels, but the smallest January 1 holdings since 1945. Merchantable Irish potatoes held on January 1 last year totaled 152,170,000 bushels, the largest on record.

For the 37 late and intermediate states total 1947 production of Irish potatoes amount to 324,613,000 bushels. It is estimated, that 17,414,000 bushels of the 1947 crop will be lost through shrinkage and waste or fed to livestock, 29,539,000 bushels will be consumed as food or the farms where they were grown, and 16,109,000 bushels will be used for seed on farms where grown. This leaves 261,551,000 bushels estimated to have been sold or held for sale, and compares with sales of 323,005,000 bushels from the 1946 crop of 403,448,000 bushels harvested in the late and intermediate states.

## GRAINS STOCKS

Stocks of corn held in all positions in North Carolina on January 1, 1948, totaled 50,174,000 bushels or 23 percent larger than the 40,725,000 bushels held on January 1, 1947, and is the largest January 1 stocks of record for the State. Corn in off-farm positions on January 1 which totaled 691,000 bushels almost doubled the 353,000 bushels held a year earlier.

Stocks of wheat both on and off farms totaled 3,478,000 bushels on January 1, 1948 and were 28 percent larger than the 2,733,000 bushels held on January 1, 1947. Stocks of wheat in off-farm positions at 859,000 bushels were 32 percent larger than a year earlier, and stocks on farms totaling 2,617,000 bushels were 26 percent larger than January 1 last year.

Stocks of oats held in all positions totaling 4,071,000 bushels were 15 percent smaller than the holdings on January 1, 1947 of 4,770,000 bushels. Off-farm stocks of oats on January 1, totaled 119,000 bushels and were only 45 percent as large as those of a year earlier.

North Carolina farmers held 1,762,000 bushels of soybeans on January 1. This is 31 percent larger than the 1,345,000 bushels held January 1, 1947. Holdings of soybeans in off-farm positions totaled 1,292,000 bushels on January 1948.



## PRICES RECEIVED

Mid-month average prices of many products sold by North Carolina farmers made noticeable changes from December to January. Rye at \$2.70 and barley at \$1.95 per bushel showed slight losses while oats at \$1.31 and wheat at \$2.95 per bushel advanced. Corn at \$2.10 per bushel remained at December's mid-month level.

Hogs, beef cattle, veal calves and sheep made moderate gains. Live chickens at 29 cents per pound showed a one-cent increase during the month while eggs at 63 cents per dozen showed a 6-cent decrease. Butter and butterfat prices advanced slightly while milk prices remained fairly stable.

Prices of baled and loose hays were slightly lower during the month. Irish and sweet potatoes made noticeable gains.

## UNITED STATES PRICES

The first month of the new year brought another sharp rise in prices paid by farmers together with a rise in average prices received by them. The index of prices paid, including interest and taxes, rose 2.4 percent above the 245 reached in December to 251. At the same time the index of prices received by farmers rose 2 percent to 307. Both indexes are at new all-time highs, but the parity ratio declined to 122.

The advanced index of prices received by farmers is due chiefly to sharply higher meat animal prices, and increased prices of corn, oats, rice, soybeans, potatoes, and grain sorghums, which were only partially offset by lower prices for eggs, cotton, apples and pears.

## FEED PRICES UP

Mid-January prices paid by North Carolina farmers for most feeds showed increases over December. Tankage, reaching an all-time high at \$7.60 per hundred weight, made the sharpest increase during the month. Rising 30 cents from the December mid-month price of \$7.30, tankage continued its upward climb which started early in 1946. Prices paid for tankage in January of this year compare with \$6.20 and \$4.50 during the same month in 1947 and 1946 respectively. Laying mash at \$6.00 per hundred weight in January advanced 20 cents above the previous month's level. Bran at \$4.55 and middlings at \$4.80 were up 15 cents and 10 cents respectively. Mixed dairy feeds of 16, 18 and 20 percent protein at \$4.60, \$4.90 and \$5.00 respectively, made moderate gains during the month. Corn meal at \$6.20 and scratch feed at \$5.70 in mid-January remained at the previous month's level.

Feed prices are expected to continue high, at least through the winter and spring.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS JANUARY 15, 1948 WITH COMPARISONS

| FEED PER<br>HUNDRED WEIGHT | N. CAROLINA        |                    | U. S.              |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                            | JAN.<br>15<br>1948 | DEC.<br>15<br>1947 | JAN.<br>15<br>1948 | DEC.<br>15<br>1947 |
|                            | - DOLLARS -        |                    |                    |                    |
| BRAN.....                  | 4.55               | 4.40               | 4.29               | 3.93               |
| MIDDINGS.....              | 4.80               | 4.70               | 4.55               | 4.29               |
| CORN MEAL.....             | 6.20               | 6.20               | 5.60               | 5.46               |
| COTTONSEED MEAL...         | 4.60               | 4.55               | 5.46               | 5.28               |
| MIXED DAIRY FEED:          |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 16% PROTEIN.....           | 4.60               | 4.45               | 4.76               | 4.57               |
| 18% PROTEIN.....           | 4.90               | 4.80               | 5.05               | 4.82               |
| 20% PROTEIN.....           | 5.00               | 4.90               | 5.24               | 5.00               |
| LAYING MASH.....           | 6.00               | 5.80               | 5.74               | 5.53               |
| SCRATCH FEED.....          | 5.70               | 5.70               | 5.69               | 5.55               |
| TANKAGE.....               | 7.60               | 7.30               | 7.81               | 7.34               |

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS  
(N. C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

| COMMODITY                             | JAN.<br>15<br>1948  | DEC.<br>15<br>1947 | JAN.<br>15<br>1947 | JAN.<br>15<br>1946 | JAN.<br>15<br>1945 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                                       | N. C. INDEX NUMBERS |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| ALL FARM PRODUCTS..                   | 273                 | 274                | 255                | 208                | 210                |
| Tobacco.....                          | 276                 | 311                | 310                | 331                | 399                |
| COTTON & COTTONSEED                   | 276                 | 272                | 257                | 180                | 167                |
| GRAINS.....                           | 252                 | 251                | 192                | 157                | 158                |
| MEAT ANIMALS.....                     | 379                 | 363                | 310                | 226                | 206                |
| POULTRY.....                          | 302                 | 321                | 249                | 264                | 240                |
| DAIRY PRODUCTS.....                   | 244                 | 241                | 227                | 180                | 175                |
| MISCELLANEOUS.....                    | 246                 | 235                | 224                | 230                | 205                |
| RATIO OF PRICES<br>RECEIVED TO PAID*  | 109                 | 112                | 119                | 118                | 122                |
| U. S. INDEX NUMBERS                   |                     |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| PRICES RECEIVED....                   | 307                 | 301                | 260                | 206                | 201                |
| PRICES PAID.....                      |                     |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| INTEREST, TAXES...                    | 251                 | 245                | 215                | 177                | 172                |
| RATIO OF PRICES<br>RECEIVED TO PAID.. | 122                 | 123                | 121                | 116                | 117                |

\* Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. paid.

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES\*

| COMMODITY             | PRICES RECEIVED<br>BY FARMERS |                 | PARITY OR<br>COMPARABLE<br>PRICES |                 | ACTUAL PRICES<br>AS PERCENTAGE<br>OF PARITY |                 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|
|                       | JAN. 15<br>1948               | DEC. 15<br>1947 | JAN. 15<br>1948                   | DEC. 15<br>1947 | JAN. 15<br>1948                             | DEC. 15<br>1947 |
|                       | - DOLLARS -                   |                 | - DOLLARS -                       |                 | - PERCENT -                                 |                 |
| COTTON, PER LB.....   | .3314                         | .3406           | .3112                             | .3038           | 106   | 112             |
| WHEAT, PER BU.....    | 2.81                          | 2.79            | 2.22                              | 2.17            | 127   | 129             |
| CORN, PER BU.....     | 2.46                          | 2.37            | 1.61                              | 1.57            | 153   | 151             |
| OATS, PER BU.....     | 1.27                          | 1.18            | 1.00                              | .978            | 127   | 121             |
| BARLEY, PER BU.....   | 2.06                          | 2.00            | 1.55                              | 1.52            | 133   | 132             |
| RYE, PER BU.....      | 2.47                          | 2.45            | 1.81                              | 1.76            | -   | 139             |
| BEEF CATTLE, PER CWT  | 21.50                         | 19.80           | 13.60                             | 13.30           | 158   | 149             |
| HOGS, PER CWT.....    | 26.70                         | 24.90           | 18.20                             | 17.80           | 147   | 140             |
| LAMBS, PER CWT.....   | 22.20                         | 21.30           | 14.80                             | 14.40           | 150   | 148             |
| CHICKENS, PER LB....  | .263                          | .252            | .286                              | .279            | 92  | 90              |
| EGGS, PER DOZ.....    | .487                          | .587            | .572                              | .632            | 85  | 93              |
| MILK, (WHSE), PER CWT | 5.06                          | 5.08            | 4.26                              | 4.29            | 119   | 118             |

\* Parity means a price for the farmer's product which will give it an exchange value for things the farmer needs to buy equal to that in a specified base period (usually 1909-14).

## JANUARY INDEX

The January 15, 1948, 'All Farm Products' index of prices by North Carolina farmers at 273 percent of the 1909-14 average was 1 point below that of a month earlier but 18 points above the 1946 index. The slight drop was caused by lower prices received for tobacco and poultry and eggs. The tobacco index (based on type 31 only) at 276 was 35 points below that of last month and 34 points below 1946. The index of prices received for poultry at 302 percent was 19 points lower than on December 15. Indexes of other commodity groups reflected increases during the month. Meat animal prices made the sharpest gains, raising the index from 363 percent in December to 379 percent in January. Indexes of cotton and cottonseed, grains, dairy products and miscellaneous products were all higher than a month earlier.

The ratio of prices received by North Carolina farmers to prices paid by United States farmers dropped from 112 percent in December to 109 percent in January and is 10 points lower than a year ago.

Declines in prices of tobacco and fruit were exceptions to general trend. Former fell 6 percent; latter 31 percent. Drop in exports is chiefly responsible.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JANUARY 15, 1948  
WITH COMPARISONS

| COMMODITY           | UNIT | NORTH CAROLINA U. S. |                 |                 |
|---------------------|------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                     |      | DEC. 15<br>1947      | JAN. 15<br>1948 | JAN. 15<br>1948 |
|                     |      | - DOLLARS -          |                 |                 |
| TOBACCO (TYPE 31)   | Lb.  | .447                 | .426            | -               |
| CORN.....           | Bu.  | 2.10                 | 2.10            | 2.46            |
| WHEAT.....          | Bu.  | 2.92                 | 2.95            | 2.81            |
| OATS.....           | Bu.  | 1.26                 | 1.31            | 1.27            |
| BARLEY.....         | Bu.  | 2.05                 | 1.95            | 2.06            |
| RYE.....            | Bu.  | 2.80                 | 2.70            | 2.47            |
| COTTON.....         | Lb.  | .335                 | .336            | .331            |
| COTTONSEED.....     | Ton  | 78.00                | 85.00           | 95.10           |
| HOGS.....           | Cwt. | 24.00                | 24.70           | 26.70           |
| BEEF CATTLE.....    | Cwt. | 16.50                | 17.50           | 21.50           |
| VEAL CALVES.....    | Cwt. | 21.70                | 22.70           | 24.40           |
| SHEEP.....          | Cwt. | 9.00                 | 9.60            | 9.32            |
| LAMBS.....          | Cwt. | 21.00                | 21.00           | 22.20           |
| CHICKENS.....       | Lb.  | .28                  | .29             | .263            |
| EGGS.....           | Doz. | .69                  | .63             | .487            |
| MILK: (WHSE.).....  | Cwt. | 5.65                 | 5.65            | 5.06            |
| RETAIL.....         | Qt.  | .20                  | .20             | .187            |
| BUTTER.....         | Lb.  | .62                  | .64             | .72             |
| BUTTERFAT.....      | Lb.  | .61                  | .63             | .877            |
| PEANUTS.....        | Lb.  | .11                  | .11             | .101            |
| SOYBEANS.....       | Bu.  | 3.05                 | 3.20            | 4.11            |
| COWPEAS.....        | Bu.  | 4.70                 | 4.65            | 4.54            |
| HAY, ALL LOOSE..... | Ton  | 29.30                | 27.20           | 18.70           |
| HAY, ALL BALED..... | Ton  | 35.30                | 33.30           | -               |
| WOOL.....           | Lb.  | .49                  | .49             | .407            |
| POTATOES.....       | Bu.  | 1.80                 | 2.05            | 1.86            |
| SWEET POTATOES..... | Bu.  | 2.00                 | 2.20            | 2.17            |
| APPLES, COMM'L..... | Bu.  | 2.60                 | 2.60            | 2.02            |
| LESPEDeza SEED..... | Lb.  | 13.30                | 15.70           | 13.00           |
| KOREAN.....         | Lb.  | 10.50                | 12.20           | -               |
| Kobe.....           | Lb.  | 15.60                | 18.60           | -               |
| COMMON & TENN. 76   | Lb.  | 22.00                | 24.00           | -               |
| SERICEA.....        | Lb.  | 21.00                | 23.00           | -               |



## FARM REPORT

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FEBRUARY, 1948

FARM REPORT

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### SPRING CABBAGE ACREAGE INTENTIONS

North Carolina growers report intentions to plant 1,700 acres of cabbage for late spring harvest in 1948. If these intentions are realized the late spring cabbage acreage will be the same as that harvested last year and 100 acres above the 10 year average of 1,600 acres.

The total prospective acreage for the 8 late spring states is 10,450 acres, a drop of 300 acres from last year and 570 acres below the average. Tennessee with 3,500 acres of the late spring crop, was the only major producing state to show an intended increase over the previous year. Virginia, Maryland and Missouri, the other important states, all report prospective reductions in acreage from the previous year.

Early spring states report a prospective acreage of 23,600 acres, compared with 22,500 acres harvested in 1947 and the ten year average of 19,700 acres. This gives a total acreage planned for all spring areas, early and late, of 34,050 acres, a slight increase over the 33,250 acres harvested last year and about 11 percent above the 10 year average of 30,720 acres.

Production prospects for the United States winter cabbage crop was placed at 402,000 tons on February 1, about 10 percent above the 364,800 tons harvested in 1947 and 15 percent greater than the average crop of 348,200 tons. Production prospects declined in Florida owing to the cold, wet weather during January which slowed growth and increased disease injury. Prospects remained unchanged in the other winter cabbage areas.

Prices of all important dairy items at the beginning of 1948 were higher than a year earlier and are likely to continue above last year although somewhat low relative to feed prices

Although consumption of eggs is likely to continue high, supplies will be large and prices are expected to continue near support levels during the flush production season.

Sweet potato prices in the next two months will probably average about the same as a year earlier.

### MILK PRODUCTION DOWN

Milk production on North Carolina farms totaled 106 million pounds during January 1948. This represents an increase of 4 percent over the 10-year (1937-46) average for January. During the month an average of 358,000 cows in herds produced a monthly average of 297 pounds of milk each. On February 1, milk production per cow in reporters' herds averaged around 10.8 pounds per day, a drop of .7 pound from February 1 of 1947. Cold weather during January was unfavorable for milk production.

Grain fed per cow in herd averaged around 5.4 pounds against 5.3 pounds fed on the same date a year ago.

### WEATHER SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 1948

The month was cold with frequent precipitation. Temperatures averaged 4 to 6 degrees below normal, making it the 5th coldest January of record over the Piedmont and the 7th coldest of record over the Coastal Plain. Precipitation was evenly distributed throughout the State, averaging 4 to 6 inches in most sections. The total snowfall varied from none along the southeast coast to over 23 inches in the extreme northwest. From 8 to 12 inches were general over the northern Piedmont counties.

As the month closed a new storm moved up from the southwest resulting in the heaviest snowfall in years on the night of the 31st and the morning of February 1.

